

COMPLETE LISTING OF CLAIMS
IN ASCENDING ORDER WITH STATUS INDICATOR

1. (currently amended) A method of correcting a deformity by performing an osteotomy in a bone at an osteotomy site using a bone plate, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) resecting the bone from a first side of the bone to a second side of the bone so as to leave a bony hinge on the second side;

(b) opening the resection to a height at which the deformity is corrected using an opening tool;

(c) placing the bone plate in a location such that the bone plate spans the open resection;

(d) removing the opening tool; and

(e) packing the open resection with at least two individual pre-formed wedge shaped sections of material by inserting at least two individual, unconnected pre-formed wedge shaped sections into the open resection.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of packing the resection includes the steps of inserting a smaller inner section of wedge shaped material behind the bone plate, and inserting two larger outer sections of wedge shaped material on either side of the smaller wedge section within the resection.

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the two wedge shaped sections of material have outer surfaces formed of cortical bone.

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the step of inserting the smaller inner section takes place prior to placing the bone plate.

5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the material comprises allograft bone.

7. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the material comprises synthetic bone.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein the synthetic bone comprises a biodegradable polylactide combined with a hydroxyapatite or tricalcium phosphate.

9. (currently amended) A method of correcting a deformity by performing an osteotomy in a bone at an osteotomy site using a bone plate, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) resecting the bone from a first side of the bone to a second side of the bone so as to leave a bony hinge on the second side;

(b) inserting an opening tool into the resection;

(c) opening the resection using the ~~wedge~~ opening tool to a height at which the deformity is corrected;

(d) placing the bone plate in a location such that the bone plate spans the open resection;

(e) removing the opening tool; and

(f) packing the resection with at least two individual pre-formed wedge shaped sections of material by inserting at least two individual pre-formed, unconnected wedge shaped sections into the open resection.

10. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the step of packing the resection includes the steps of inserting a smaller inner section of wedge shaped material behind the bone plate, and inserting two larger outer sections of wedge shaped material on either side of the smaller wedge section within the resection.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the two wedge shaped sections of material have outer surfaces formed of cortical bone.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 10, wherein the step of inserting the smaller inner section takes place prior to placing the bone plate.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the material comprises allograft bone.

14. (previously presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the material comprises synthetic bone.

15. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the synthetic bone comprises a biodegradable polylactide combined with a hydroxyapatite or tricalcium phosphate.

16. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step after opening the resection of removing a removable handle from the opening tool to provide access for the bone plate prior to the step of placing the bone plate.

17. (new) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of removing a removable handle from the opening tool after opening the resection and prior to placing the bone plate.